

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 remain in the application. The Applicants have amended claims 1, 9, 14, 21, 22, 24, 25, and 29.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 14, 15, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 5,644,712 (Coscarella et al.) in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,341,356 (Johnson et al.) Claims 5-8, 17-19 and 22-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 5,644,712 (Coscarella et al.) in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,341,356 (Johnson et al.), and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,594,698 (Chow et al.) Claims 3, 9-13 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 5,644,712 (Coscarella et al.) in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,341,356 (Johnson et al.), and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,209,023 (Dimitroff et al.) The Applicants respectfully traverse each of these rejections based on the following remarks.

None of the references relied upon by the Examiner, either alone or in combination disclose or suggest at least features of the present invention of providing a report of multiple paths between a host and a target fabric-attached I/O controller that may be shared between the host and another host via a cluster fabric, and directing service requests between the host and the external target fabric-attached I/O controller in response to the multiple paths.

Coscarella et al. discloses a computer system 102 for using logical channel groups to indirectly address channels. The computer system 102 of Coscarella et al. discloses a CPU 108, RAM 110, an I/O processor 118, a channel subsystem 106, a switch 140, control units CU 151, 152 and devices 161, 162. Coscarella et al. does not disclose any fabric-attached I/O controller that may be shared between the host and another host via a cluster fabric, or providing a report of multiple paths between the host and such a fabric-attached I/O controller that may be shared between the host and another host via the cluster fabric.

The Examiner has relied upon the Johnson et al. patent to disclose one or more fabric-attached I/O controllers that may be allocated or assigned to different hosts. Johnson et al. does disclose portable path management code and providing a plurality of control modules. However, Johnson et al. only discloses one host operating system 201 interacting with data storage devices 208 of virtual storage system 216. Johnson et al. discloses multiple paths between OS 201 and the virtual storage system 216. Additionally, Johnson et al. discloses that system 200 could be included in an environment where a plurality of hosts are running on different operating systems, Johnson et al. does not disclose or suggest providing a report of multiple paths between a host and a fabric-attached I/O controller that may be shared between the host and another host via a cluster fabric, and directing service requests between the host and the external target fabric-attached I/O controller in response to the multiple paths.

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The Applicants respectfully traverse the prior art rejections relied upon by the Examiner for at least the reasons set forth above. In view of the foregoing, the application is considered to be in condition for allowance. Early notification of the same is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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